

4 Pages

UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI

MISSOURI SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

JOURNALISM STUDIES DEPARTMENT

January 31, 2012

Dr. Harriet Wolfe
Superintendent
Sedalia 200
2806 Matthew Drive
Sedalia, MO 65301-7981

Dear Dr. Wolfe,

Pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law (RSMo Chapter 610), I would like to obtain a copy of any and all records and correspondence pertaining to the challenge and/or removal of materials in school libraries and/or classrooms in your school district from January 1, 2008 to present. I have attached the form used by the Boone County School District to initiate book challenges as an example.

I understand that if I seek a copy of this record, there may be a copying fee. Please inform me of that cost prior to making the copy. I can be reached at 573-882-5736.

According to the statute, this request should be acted upon as soon as possible, but in no event later than the third business day following receipt of this letter. If access to the records I requested is going to take longer, please contact me so we can work out a reasonable date. I'll be back in touch in 10 working days if I don't hear from your office.

If you choose to deny the request, then you are required to respond in writing and state the statutory exception authorizing the withholding of all or part of the public record and the name and title or position of the person responsible for the denial.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles N. Davis, Ph.D.
204 Neff Hall
FAX: 573-884-5400



INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Form 6241

InstructionChallenged Materials

REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Type of material (book, film, pamphlet, etc.): Book
 Title of material: Bridge Tarabtha SP
 Author: Who cares
 Publisher: Who cares
 Your name, address, telephone number: John Walker 21858 Hwy 1
6205550
 Do you have a child in the school concerned? Grand.
 Complainant also represents others: yes

(organization-name)

(other group-identify) Concerned parentsTo what part of the material do you object? Cite words, page numbers: Page 85Why do you object to this material? To close for grade
Schoolers to disagree the difference (God name in vain)Are you familiar with the range of materials used in the school system on this topic? Not really
But I do know why Jesus never had anything goodDo you approve of presenting a diversity of points of view about this material in the classroom? to say about
This should not be in the Class room EducationalShould this be withdrawn from all students? Yes _____ No grade schools for sureJohn Walker12-6-10

Signature of Complainant

Date

Please give/send this information to: _____

Superintendent

Address

**SSD****Sedalia School District #200**

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Sedalia, Missouri
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Fax (660) 827-8938
www.sedalia200.com

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Bradley R. Pollitt, Ed.
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Director of Special Education
Student Support Services

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opportunity and affirmative
action employer

Date: January 6, 2011
Re: Book Challenge

Mr. John Walker
21858 Hwy F
Sedalia, MO. 65301

Dear Mr. Walker,

This letter is being sent to inform you of the decision that has been made in reference to the official challenge you made on December 6, 2010 to the book Bridge to Terabithia. According to the complaint, you suggested that the language in the text was "too close to using God's name in vain" for the grade school children to distinguish the difference.

In accordance with Board Policy 6241, on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, a committee of nine people met to review the book and evaluate the questioned material. The committee included an administrator, two classroom teachers, the librarian, a member of the Board of Education, and four lay persons. Two of the lay persons are parents of children at Skyline Elementary.

After careful consideration and review of the questioned material, the committee recommends that the book be retained in its present capacity as a supplementary reading material without restrictions.

Thank you for taking an interest in your grandchild's education and if you have any further question regarding this issue, please contact Mrs. McFatrach at Skyline Elementary.

Respectfully,

Bradley Pollitt
Assistant Superintendent
Sedalia School District #200

**Skyline Elementary
School**

Memo

To: Dr. Harriet Wolfe
From: Kelly McFatrigh
CC: Brad Pollitt
Date: 2/26/2011
Re: Review of Instructional Materials

On December 8, 2010, the form "Review of Instructional Materials" (attached) was completed and returned to the Superintendent's office by a patron. The complaint was filed in objection to a section of text, on page 85, in the book entitled Bridge to Terabithia. According to the complaint, the patron suggested that the language in the text was "too close (to using God's name in vain) for grade schoolers to distinguish the difference".

A committee of nine people was formed to review the book and evaluate the questioned material. The committee included an administrator, 2 classroom teachers, the librarian, a member of the Board of Education, and four lay persons. Two of the lay persons were parents of children at Skyline Elementary.

After careful consideration and review of the questioned material, the committee recommends that the book be retained without restriction.